

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 03419 01 OF 02 110339 Z

62/42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DPW-01 OPR-02 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-12 INRE-00 RSR-01 /177 W
----- 033701

O R 101105 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0861

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 03419 01 OF 02 110339 Z

CNO
COMNAVFORV
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
DIA WASHDC
COMUSMACV
7 AF
7/13 AF
7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3419

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- T E X T --

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - APRIL 10, 1973

GENERAL

1. ATTEMPTS TO BROADEN THE GOVERNMENT MADE LITTLE HEADWAY DURING THE WEEK DESPITE BG LON NON' S TENDER OF HIS RESIGNATION FROM HIS MINISTERIAL POSITION. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TIGHTENED CONTROLS A BIT FURTHER WITH A DECLARATION OF " STATE OF DANGER" AS ENEMY HARASSMENT OF THE LINES OF ROAD AND RIVER COMMUNICATION CAUSED FUEL SHORTAGES IN THE CAPITAL. SIHANOUK CLAIMED, THUS FAR WITH LITTLE CONVINCING EVIDENCE, TO HAVE SPENT SIX WEEKS IN NORTHEAST CAMBODIA -- WITHOUT NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON KHMER PUBLIC OPINION. THE KHMER INSURGENTS MAINTAIN THEIR HOLD ON RTE 2 AND 5; BUT THE SITUATION ALONG RTE 1 IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY. PORTIONS OF THE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH FROM SOUTH VIETNAM. RTE 4 WAS REOPENED BETWEEN KOMPONG SOM AND THE CAPTIAL. PHNOM PENH REMAINS CALM.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 03419 01 OF 02 110339 Z

2. ATTEMPTS BY MARSHAL LON NOL TO BROADEN HIS GOVERNMENT

BY THE INCLUSION OF MAJOR OPPOSITION POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE MADE VERY LITTLE HEADWAY. NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR THE OPPOSITION SEEMS WILLING TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS DESPITE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE GRAVITY OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.

3. THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER PRAYOCH KHMER CARRIED EDITORIALS SUGGESTING THAT THE USE OF U. S. E-52'S IN CAMBODIA " IS NOT THE BEST MANNER IN WHICH TO PROTECT THE KHMER NATION" AND DECLARING THAT THE PLANES COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE BOMBING NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN NORTH VIETNAM. MINISTER OF INFORMATION KEAM RETH, HOWEVER, DECLARED IN AKP THAT AMERICAN AIR SUPPORT IS " AT OUR DEMAND" AND " WE HAVE NEVER DOUBTED THE EFFICACY" OF AIR POWER.

4. MINISTER OF FINANCE ITH THUY HAS RESIGNED AND HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY REPLACED BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION KEO MONGKRY. BG LON NON HAS ALSO RESIGNED AS MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE INTERIOR BUT HIS RESIGNATION WILL NOT BE FORMALLY ACCEPTED UNTIL A FURTHER GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION IS CARRIED OUT. HE IS, HOWEVER, NO LONGER ATTENDING CABINET MEETINGS. LON NON RETAINS HIS COMMAND OF THE 3 RD DIVISION AND THE BASE OF HIS POLITICAL POWER.

5. AN APRIL 4 ORDER SIGNED BY LON NOL DECLARED A STATE OF DANGER IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING STATE OF EMERGENCY,
E E E E E E E

ADP000
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PAGE 01 PHNOM 03419 02 OF 02 101331 Z

46
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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

OPR-02 DPW-01 RSR-01 SR-02 ORM-03 INRE-00 /165 W
----- 027093

O R 101105 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0862
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 03419 02 OF 02 101331 Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3419

ECONOMIC

11. RICE. ON APRIL 6 PHNOM PENH RICE STOCKS TOTALLED 24,475 METRIC TONS OR 54 DAYS SUPPLY. ABOUT 3,000 MT OF RICE AND ON THE MEKONG BUT UNALBE TO COME UP TO PHNOM PENH ON THE LAST CONVOY. DISTRIBUTION IN PHNOM PENH CONTINUES TO RUN OVER 450 TONS PER DAY AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT TO BRING RELEASES UNDER CONTROL. THE NEXT ARRIVALS OF PL 480 RICE ARE SCHEDULED IN KOMPONG SOM ON THE 14 TH OF APRIL.

12. POL SUPPLIES. THE FOLLOWING POL SUPPLIES ARRIVED
APRIL 8 AND 9:

735 CUBIC METERS KEROSENE	7.35 DAYS SUPPLY
1,600 CUBIC METERS AUTO DIESEL	10.66 DAYS SUPPLY
1,220 CUBIC METERS MOGAS	7.18 DAYS SUPPLY
1,680 CUBIC METERS FUEL OIL	13.34 DAYS SUPPLY
400 CUBIC METERS INDUSTRIAL DIESEL	3.25 DAYS SUPPLY

MILITARY

13. THE SITUATION ON RTE 1 SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH
IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY AS REINFORCED FANK UNITS EXPANDED
POSITIONS ALONG THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG TOWARD NEAK
LUONG. AS OF APRIL 10, ONLY TWO SECTIONS OF THE ROAD,
TOTALING SOME 8 KMS, REAMIN TO BE CLEARED. EIGHT SHIPS
OF THE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED PHNOM PENH ON APRIL 8-9
AFTER BEING HARRASSED BY INDIRECT FIRE SOUTH OF THE
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PAGE 03 PHNOM 03419 02 OF 02 101331 Z

CAMBODIAN- SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. FOUR POL SHIPS
ARRIVED PROVIDING SOME RELIEF TO THE CURRENT POL CRISIS.

14. THE SITUATION ALONG TRE 2 CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE.
THE FANK GARRISON AT ANG TASSOM, 11 KM WEST OF TAKEO,
WITHDREW ON MARCH 7 FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT ENEMY GROUND
ATTACKS. THE FATE OF THE 97 TH BN, WHICH HAD DEFENDED
THE TOWN, IS NOT KNOWN. POSITIONS ON RTE 2, NORTH
AND SOUTH OF TAKEO CITY, WERE SUBJECTED TO ATTACKS BY
FIRE AND GROUND ATTACKS; HOWEVER, NO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS
HAVE FALLEN.

15. RTE 4, COLSED BY THE ENEMY ON MARCH 25 WAS RE-
OPENED ON APRIL 9 WITHOUT ENEMY RESISTANCE. FRIENDLY
CASUALTIES SUSTAINED DURING THE TWO- WEEK CLEARING
OPERATION WERE 21 KILLED, 114 WOUNDED; WITH UNKNOWN
ENEMY LOSSES.

16. KHMER INSURGENT FORCES CONTINUE TO CONTEST
FANK CLEARING EFFORTS ON RTE 5, INTERDICTED ON APRIL 3,
SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG. GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS
WERE COMMITTED TO THE OPERATION WHICH HAS THUS FAR,
RESULTED IN A TOTAL OF 9 FANK KILLED, 57 WOUNDED AND
38 MISSING IN ACTION; ENEMY LOSSES ARE NOT REPORTED.

17. IN THE PPSMR, INSURGENT FORCES LAUNCHED ATTACKS
AGAINST FANK POSITIONS SOME 30 KM WEST OF PHNOM PEN ON
APRIL 8, WOUNDING 14 SOLDIERS. THE ENEMY MAY BE PLANNING
TO CONDUCT SAPPER OR INDIRECT FIRE ASSAULTS AGAINST

THE CAPITAL DURING THE CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR, APRIL 13-15. PHNOM
PENH REMAINS CALM.
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BANGKOK
CANBERRA
COPENHAGEN
EA
HONG KONG
JAKARTA
KUALA LUMPUR

LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC

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